



4-H Animal Identification

Spring 2025

Dear 4-H Animal Science Families,

It's time to start working with your 4-H animal projects. We hope you find your projects both challenging and rewarding. You will need to identify all 4-H animal projects; breeding heifers, cow/calf pairs, prospect calves (steers and heifers), dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, llama-alpaca, meat goats, poultry (doves and pigeons), rabbits, sheep, and swine. Animals **MUST** be identified in 4-H Online by May 15, 2025. All market beef (market steers, market heifers, and dairy steers) should have been identified by February 18, 2025. Cloverbuds showing animals must have an official ID to meet Board of Animal Health Requirements. 4-H Online ID process is optional for cloverbuds.

The information sheets, ID sheets and additional animal id information shared below can be found online at: extension.umn.edu/4-h-projects/4-h-animal-id

Identification Steps:

- 1) Read through the appropriate information sheet for the animal(s) that you will be identifying and the [Minnesota 4-H AnSci Updates for 2025](#). These documents include information for identification, animal project rules, classes, State Fair participation and more. Locate your species information sheet below: (note: horse does not have an info sheet)
 - [Beef Information Sheet](#)
 - [Dairy Information Sheet](#)
 - [Dairy Goat Information Sheet](#)
 - [Dog Information Sheet](#)
 - [Horse Information Sheet](#)
 - [Llama-Alpaca Information Sheet](#)
 - [Meat Goat Information Sheet](#)
 - [Poultry Information Sheet](#)
 - [Rabbit Information Sheet](#)
 - [Sheep Information Sheet](#)
 - [Swine Information Sheet](#)
- 2) Do you need a 4-H tag? Double check the [MN 4-H Animal Science identification requirements table](#). If so, contact the Winona County Extension Office for your 4-H tag(s). All market project animals, commercial animals, and prospect calves will need a 4-H tag. Unused 4-H tags must be returned to the Extension Office within 2 weeks of the ID deadline to be in compliance with MN Board of Animal Health and USDA official tag tracking.
- 3) Taggers are available for you to check out and use; please inquire about the return procedure.
- 4) If your animal is [leased](#), you must upload a [Minnesota 4-H Lease Information Form](#) into 4-H Online by May 15, 2025 with 4-H Online ID information. **NOTE: Market animals may not be leased.**

- 5) Locate the appropriate species ID Worksheet to assist you in collecting the required ID information for entering your animal information into 4-H Online.
- [Beef - May ID Worksheet](#) (Breeding Heifer, Cow Calf Pair, Prospect Calf)
 - [Dairy ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Dairy Goat ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Dog ID Form](#) (required to upload in 4-H Online by May 15, 2025)
 - [Horse ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Llama-Alpaca ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Meat Goat - Market Goat ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Meat Goat - Meat Breeding Doe and Wether Dam ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Poultry - Pigeon/Dove ID Worksheet](#) NOTE: all other poultry projects do not need to be identified at this time.
 - [Rabbit ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Sheep ID Worksheet](#)
 - [Swine ID Worksheet](#)
- 6) Enter your animal identification information into [4-H Online](#) by May 15, 2025. (Note: all market beef should have been identified by February 18, 2025) Utilize the animal ID'ing [tip sheet](#) for ease in entering your animal information. If you are unable to enter your information into 4-H Online, please bring your completed ID worksheet to the Extension Office for assistance in entering your ID information into 4-H Online by the end of business day on May 15, 2025.
- 7) An AFTER HOURS helpline is available for use if you are experiencing challenges with your identification process. Please use these helplines during the available hours only. All other calls for assistance should be directed to Kim Stehr at the Winona County Extension Office during normal business hours 8am-4:30pm. Helpline dates and hours:

Wednesday, May 14	4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	218-232-5174
Thursday, May 15	4:30 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.	507-649-0684

Remember, by May 15, 2025, you must own your animal, have the appropriate ID applied (tags/tattoos), and enter the animal information into 4-H Online. Please contact Kim Stehr at 507-457-6441 or wing109@umn.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Stehr

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development